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City of Fairfax NEWS RELEASE

Fairfax, Virginia 22030

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 12, 2014

MEDIA ADVISORY

Bicentennial Commemoration: War of 1812

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, September 20
Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center,
3610 Old Lee Highway
Fairfax, VA 22030

FAIRFAX, Va. — In commemoration of the 200th anniversary of local Fairfax citizens' military role with the Virginia Militias in 1814, Historic Blenheim will host a bicentennial commemoration of the War of 1812 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. September 20 at Historic Blenheim. The day-long event is free and features events for history buffs of all ages. For information, call 703-591-0560.

This event features a living history encampment of the 60th Virginia Militia, portrayals of local landowners, a village blacksmith, fencing demonstrations; talks by historian Stuart Butler, author and reporter Steve Vogel, historian Patrick O'Neill and period music by musician/ musicologist David Hildebrand. Additionally, a grave-marking ceremony for Captain Rezin Willcoxon will take place at 3:30 p.m. by the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia.

Please see the attached flyer.

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Bicentennial Commemoration

War of 1812

Saturday, September 20, 2014

11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. ★ FREE

Historic Blenheim and the
Civil War Interpretive Center

3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax VA 22030

(703) 591-0560



Activities

Talks and Presentations: Learn about the Virginia militias' involvement in the battles and threats to Northern Virginia, Maryland, and the Nation's Capital in 1814. A musicologist will discuss and perform songs and music of the war period culminating in the "Star-Spangled Banner". (*Civil War Interpretive Center; 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.*)



Exhibit: "War on the Doorstep" (*Civil War Interpretive Center Gallery—Civil War Graffiti exhibit and replica attic will remain open; 11:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.*)

War of 1812 Authors and Vendors (*Civil War Interpretive Center; 11:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.*)

Graveside Ceremony: Grave marking and ceremony for Captain Rezin Willcoxson, 60th Virginia Militia Cavalry, by the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia (*Family Cemetery; 3:30 p.m.*)

Living History Presenters and Displays

60th Virginia Militia, 2nd Division ★ Frederick County Militia, 9th Brigade,

16th Regiment, 1st Battalion, Maryland Militia ★ Calvert-Arundel Swordsmen: Sailors, Militia Officer, and Local Ladies

Jeff Dunkelberger and Caitlin Garvey – The Village Blacksmith ★ Jon Vrana – Gentleman Fairfax County Farmer

Schedule of Events

- 11:00 a.m. Camps Open: Ongoing soldier activities; blacksmithing; civilian life; fencing demonstrations
- 11:30 a.m. **Talk:** "The Fairfax County Militia (60th) in the War of 1812"
Stuart L. Butler, Virginia Military Historian of the War of 1812
- 12:00 p.m. Cannon and musket firing demonstrations
- 12:30 p.m. **Talk:** "Washington-Baltimore Campaigns"
Steve Vogel, Historian and Author, "Through the Perilous Fight"
- 1:00-2:00 p.m. **Musical Discussion and Presentation:** "Music of the War of 1812"
David Hildebrand, specialist in early American music and Director of the Colonial Music Institute
- 1:00 p.m. Tour of ca. 1859 Willcoxson house, "Historic Blenheim"
- 2:30 p.m. **Talk:** "Fairfax County and the Longest Battle of the War of 1812"
Presenter: Patrick O'Neill, Independent Research Historian
- 3:00 p.m. Cannon and musket firing demonstrations
- 3:30 p.m. Captain Rezin Willcoxson graveside ceremony by the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia
- 4:00 p.m. Camps Close



Photos courtesy of the
60th Virginia Militia, 2nd Division.

This event is made possible through the coordinated efforts of the Office of Historic Resources; City of Fairfax; Historic Vienna; 60th Virginia Militia, 2nd Division; and the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia. Support and funding through Historic Fairfax City, Inc.

Events subject to change.